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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1905.

Was There a Conspiracy?

There is no uncertain sound about Judge Witt's charge to the grand jury concerning election frauds. He does not mince words in denouncing that species of crime, and he makes sure by citing the members specifically to the law in the case. But the most interesting feature of the charge is that relating to conspiracy, which follows:

"If any malign influences have conspired together to debauch our electorate, or violate the sanctity of the ballot, I tell you that no means should be spared by which these influences can be traced to the sources from which they emanate, and the guilty conspirators brought to justice."

"This, gentlemen, is no political quarrel. It is an earnest effort, an effort after crime and criminals, an effort on the part of the law to give to this city that which its people demand, fair and honest elections. These are the issues which I have to present to you. I should see to it that they be insured. I should see to it that they be insured. I should see to it that they be insured."

There was found at two of the precincts glaring, outrageous, and deliberately planned fraud, of that there is no doubt, and it is too much to ask the public to believe that the men who practised it acted on their own intuition and on their own account. They did not do it for fun. They did it for a serious purpose and they must have done it for the benefit of some other person or persons. The presumption is that they were acting as agents of some person or persons on the outside, and that they were paid for their work. In short, there must have been a conspiracy, deliberately and designally planned, to defraud the voters, and to rob some candidates for the benefit of other candidates. It is that phase of the case that is most important. It is bad enough for sworn election officers to betray their trust and commit robbery, but if they were, through conspiracy, put there by others for that purpose, the crime becomes greatly exaggerated, the felony is compounded. The special work of this grand jury to ascertain, if possible, whether or not such a conspiracy was framed, and, if so, who were the other parties to it.

It will facilitate the present investigation that this grand jury will have the advantage of all information desired by the grand jury which made the original investigation and we hope also that the members will have the opportunity of reading the report of the minority. It is also greatly to be desired that the jury will submit to the court a general report bearing upon political conditions in this community and make such recommendations as may seem to them in the interest of reform. There are all sorts of rumors afloat. The grand jury is in a position to ascertain the facts.

For the Good of the Schools.

We regret that resolutions were adopted in Amelia county condemning the creation of a State Board of Examiners and inspectors for the public schools. This action was taken by the State Board of Education under section 1438 of the Code and, in our opinion, is one of the most progressive steps yet taken in the interest of the public school system.

Under the old system, each county superintendent examined the applicants for teachers and issued certificates according to his own ideas of grading. As the examination papers were not reviewed by the centralized authorities each superintendent was a law unto himself. In some counties the superintendent received \$200 a year for his services and it is too much to expect that in all such cases a competent examiner can be had for that pay. Hence the creation of the State Board of Examiners and Inspectors, whose duty it will be to arrange and supervise examinations, pass upon examination papers and issue certificates. The original plan has been so modified as to remove, in part at least, the objections raised in Amelia. Each division superintendent will conduct the examination in his own jurisdiction and endorse upon the papers of each applicant sent to the State Board of Examiners and Inspectors his recommendations. The Board will then examine the papers and issue certificates accordingly. This will practically amount to nomination by the superintendents and confirmation by the board. In this way greater uniformity will be assured. The system is in keeping with

our general form of government and there is no occasion for division superintendents to feel aggrieved.

But that is by no means the only or most important function of this board. Far from it. The newspapers are to act as field agents of the State Board of Education. The regulations provide:

They shall assist the superintendents of the State Board of Examiners and Inspectors to co-operate cheerfully with the division superintendents and to aid them in any manner possible by advice or otherwise in improving school conditions in the various divisions of the separate circuits.

They shall assist the superintendents in holding county educational meetings, and otherwise in educating the school children, the people of the county in school conditions.

They shall aid the superintendent of any division in procuring the practical interest of the county officials in lengthening school terms, increasing the pay of teachers, and otherwise furthering the material progress of the schools.

They shall advise the superintendents with reference to locating school buildings and erecting the same in accordance with approved plans.

Further, it should be their duty:

To hold conferences with trustees, individually and collectively, and to procure their active interest and support in behalf of district schools.

To encourage such trustees to hold meetings of their patrons in the interest of better school conditions.

To give to trustees such advice and enlightenment as may enable them better to perform their duties as trustees.

To visit in each county as many schools as possible, and to note carefully the work of the teachers, and to make to the division superintendent such suggestions as may seem valuable in improving school conditions.

To offer advice as to improving and beautifying school grounds and buildings, and thereby adding to their comfort and attractiveness.

To visit especially each high school in the county and use every effort to bring these schools under the conditions prescribed by the State Board of Education for public high schools in Virginia.

To aid in organizing local education associations.

The Times-Dispatch has long been an advocate and champion of the inspection system in all departments of government. If inspectors will perform their functions conscientiously, they will keep all public officials always screwed up to the duty point, and will be worth to the government far more than their pay. No conscientious official minds inspection. He courts it. It stimulates him, and when he knows that his affairs are in ship-shape, he wants the inspector to examine and make public the fact.

But in addition to this function, the members of the newly created board will act as educational missionaries by offense in the term, and keep up a continuous agitation of the question of popular education. What the Crusaders did in the May campaign, the members of this board will do all the year, and the cause of popular education will prosper.

Our friends in Amelia have taken a narrow view, and we hope that citizens in other counties will not follow their example. Let us give the new system a fair trial. Then, if it proves to be worthless, it will be abolished.

A Simpler Life for the Army.

In urging a simpler standard of living upon the officers of the United States army, General Corbin spoke to the point, as well as from a thorough understanding of the facts. That there are both room and necessity for reform in this direction is evident to any ordinarily intelligent observer. Complaints in regard to debts which army officers have contracted and have not paid have of late been rather more frequent than is desirable and this, in the opinion of the general, appears to be a growing evil.

"To contract debts he cannot pay," he comments, "is not the act of an officer who can ever have high standing in the service. It is usually the beginning of the end."

Some light on the possibilities which an army post may afford for extravagant dissipation was recently shed in a recent divorce suit of extraordinary unpleasantness. It is hardly necessary to add that the net-work of misbehavior which that suit uncovered is in no sense typical of army life. That an unjustifiably costly scale of living not infrequently prevails among our officers is, however, equally plain. Costly entertaining, borrowed funds and unpaid obligations tell the story—and we find officers whose thoughts should be wholly engrossed with their work harrassed in mind over paying for dinner-parties of the past, and busily planning new ones for the future.

That there is little of this sort of thing in the army is no doubt true, but that there should be any of it is a matter for real regret. It is fundamentally and basically wrong. Luxury and discipline do not go hand in hand, and discipline is the key-word of the army. Extravagance has not been in the past a tradition of the service, and we know of no good reason why it should be for the future. For even an occasional officer to ape the activities of a "high" society is not merely foolish, but is degrading; because the ideals of a good soldier are in every way bigger and finer than those of a cotton leader or beau about town. Morals aside, a costly standard of living in the army is bad policy and of unsound principle. Post life may furnish peculiar temptations to it, but that is beside the point; and we are slow to believe that the best fighting men are bred around the groaning dinner-table. As General Corbin said, the army officer is a type to whom "only the simple life—the rigorous, frugal life—is possible."

A Hint to the Wise.

In discussing yesterday the subject of broadening Monument Avenue, we spoke of the probability of placing the Fitzhugh Lee monument at the farther end of that splendid thoroughfare, but we are informed upon the best authority that unless the avenue is broadened that monument will not be put thereon, but will be placed on Grove Road, near the Soldiers' Home.

We throw out this hint for what it is worth. It is not given as a threat, but if the city wants to make Monument Avenue complete and if the property holders along the line wish to have

this desirable acquisition they had better take steps at once to have the avenue broadened.

We do not know what relationship there is between a horse show and a railroad, save that the one contributes to the revenues of the other, but Mr. W. O. Warthen, of Richmond, seems to have a special talent for both. He is one of the most popular and efficient passenger agents in the C. and O.'s extensive territory and the success of the Richmond Horse Show is due largely to his intelligent direction and enthusiastic efforts. We mention these facts by way of saying that when honors are passed around at the next show, Warthen ought to get a blue ribbon with a diamond stud.

There is a lady in Philadelphia who makes a living at an odd trade. Her name is Edith King, and she is a desecrator-nabber. Soldiers occasionally weary of army life, and unobtrusively depart by night, without previous notice. This is where Miss King comes in. She traces the deserter, locates him, and then—does him with Dillibub-like smiles to tell her all about it. Then she claps a pair of handcuffs on him. The King, a captured deserter is \$50, and Miss King, who has nabbed many a one in her day, is no doubt slowly amassing a fortune.

The convention for the Twenty-third Senatorial District, held in Danville yesterday adopted by an overwhelming majority a resolution condemning the primary plan. It is possible that the Democrats of Virginia are going to abandon that plan of nominating candidates after giving it a single trial? We do not believe it, yet the enemies of the primary are industriously at work.

The United States cash drawer now contains just \$1,239,558,578.53 in currency and securities. This would seem to justify the hope that even with grafting going on at the prevailing rate, the old country ought to be able to plod along for several years more.

It was reserved for Hall Calne to give plutocracy the most unkindest cut of all.

Following Sulu's lead, it is now clearly up to the sublime Porte of Korea to put in his claim for the heart and hand of Miss Alice Roosevelt.

Governor Hanly charges that ex-Auditor Sherrick spent bunches of Indiana's money at the gaming table. This kind of thing won't do. Sherrick ought to have had sense enough to put the money into improved city real estate.

If that little Columbian revolution has any hopes of attracting the attention of the telegraph editors, it had better sit back and keep quiet till this insurance investigation's done with.

Mrs. Roland B. Molinoux made a great hit in her debut on the vaudeville stage, this being a line of business in which mere merit counts for nothing in comparison with notoriety.

In issuing the call for a new peace conference at the Hague, does the Czar merely wish to demonstrate that he is, at bottom, the subtlest of living humorists.

Before the courts finally pass upon their little difficulty, Gaynor and Greene expect to escape all unpleasant consequences by dying quietly of old age.

Miss Roosevelt entered Seoul on Tuesday riding in a palanquin. Never mind what a palanquin is. Miss Roosevelt was riding in it.

The arrest of a Syrian bishop in New York on two charges of assault is the latest exposition of muscular Christianity.

Russia has just completed a new battleship, several months too late to provide any amusement for Admiral Togo.

In the old days, if you needed money, you had only to drop in and borrow it from the Equitable.

Once more, the lid's off in South America.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

September 21st.

1659—First Esopus war began.

1723—The Irish House of Commons addressed King George I. on the evils of Wood's halfpence. For some time this subject was a theme for mapoons and Dean Swift's wit.

1745—Battle of Prestonpans, in England, between the forces of the Young Pretender and those of the King. The former gained a complete victory, with the loss of only 50, while 500 of the King's troops were killed on the field of battle, and lost their artillery, colors, tents, baggage and military chest, etc.

1795—The "Peep-of-days Boys" in Ireland changed their name to Orange-men, and opened their first lodge.

1802—Miss Gurney ascended at London in a balloon about 4,000 feet and descended in a parachute safely at St. Pancras. His balloon fell the next day near Farnham, in Surrey.

1804—An army of blacks began to march to the north of the Bay of Hanoi, to besiege the city of Hanoi.

1820—The first public school in Baltimore established.

1846—First day's battle of Monterey.

1852—John Chambers, a pioneer Kentucky emigrant, died, aged 73. He was born in New Jersey and went to Kentucky at the age of 13. He was a pioneer with success; was a volunteer aide-de-camp to Harrison at the battle of the Thames, and was one of the foremost in the pursuit of Proctor. He was the first Governor of Iowa, and held other public offices.

1854—The theatre at Bologna burned; the Emperor acted as fireman.

1864—New York was depressed over the reported blowing up of Admiral Farragut's flagship Hartford, by accident, off Mobile.

1874—The British claims awarded by the arbitration commission under the Washington treaty of 1873, and amounting to \$1,390,000, were paid by the United States.

1884—England has an army of 13,650 men in Egypt.

1894—Forest fires raged around Bona, Algeria, with great loss of life.

1904—Russo-Japanese war: news of Karaki's march to outflank Mukden confirmed; Japanese advancing towards Liaoyang; repulsed in effort to capture Liaoyang.

1904—Peter Karageorgievitch crowned King of Serbia at Belgrade.

## THE WEATHER.

Forecast: Virginia—Fair and somewhat cooler Thursday; Friday fair; fresh north winds.

North Carolina—Fair Thursday and Friday; light, variable winds.

Conditions Yesterday.

Richmond's weather was hot, with showers and lower temperature in evening. Range of the thermometer:

8 A. M. .... 80 6 P. M. .... 81

12 M. .... 82 12 midnight .... 76

8 P. M. .... 80 12 midnight .... 76

Average .... 83 1-2.

Highest temperature yesterday .... 81

Lowest temperature yesterday .... 70

Mean temperature yesterday .... 75

Normal temperature for September .... 73

Departure from normal temperature .... 2

Thermometer This Day Last Year

9 A. M. .... 71 6 P. M. .... 70

12 M. .... 77 12 midnight .... 72

8 P. M. .... 82 12 midnight .... 72

Average .... 78 5-8.

Conditions in Important Cities.

(At 5 P. M., Eastern Time.)

Place. Ther. High T. Weather.

Asheville, N. C. .... 65 80 Clear

Augusta, Ga. .... 74 80 Clear

Atlanta, Ga. .... 74 80 Clear

Buffalo, N. Y. .... 61 65 Clear

Charlotte, N. C. .... 72 80 P. cloudy

Chicago, Ill. .... 59 68 Clear

Cincinnati, O. .... 66 70 Clear

Cleveland, O. .... 66 70 Clear

Detroit, Mich. .... 66 70 Clear

Indianapolis, Ind. .... 66 70 Clear

Jacksonville, Fla. .... 78 80 Clear

Kansas City, Mo. .... 78 80 Clear

New Orleans, La. .... 80 80 Clear

Philadelphia, Pa. .... 72 80 P. cloudy

Pittsburgh, Pa. .... 71 80 P. cloudy

Portland, Me. .... 66 70 Clear

Savannah, Ga. .... 80 80 P. cloudy

Washington, D. C. .... 78 80 Clear

Wilmington, N. C. .... 78 80 Clear

Miniature Almanac.

September 21, 1905.

Sun rises .... 6:57 HIGHEST TIDE.

Moon rises .... 11:07 Morning .... 5:37

Moon rises .... 11:07 Evening .... 10:13

Rhymes for Today.

It Might Have Been.

(There is a shortage in the lima bean crop—New Item.)

Ah, well, that a bumper crop of corn

Runs bigger than it's ran for years;

Ah, well, that the teaming wheat comes on

In record-breaking pods and ears;

Is greater than we've ever seen—

But tell me, ye who make the crops,

Why have ye shirked the lima bean?

I'll not believe 'twas just for fun

You let the bean crop run so short,

Yet can I feel that you have done

Your agriculture as you ought?

That you have been remiss and mean

Is calmly certain to this rhyme:

Why should you slight the lima bean?

Oh, why ignore the bean of Lima?

Dashed are the plans that I had stacked,

My gastronomic dreams are spoiled;

I'll look in vain for Boston Baked

Beans, friend or minced, hashed brown

Or broiled.

Small heart have I for corn or wheat;

Small joy for my flowing plenty means:

Ah, for a steaming plate of sweet

Brown, moist and toothsome lima beans!

Diogenes, grown old, was asked what he

Considered the least profitable years

Of his life.

"The time I spent in Wall Street

Looking for an honest man," he answered,

Bitterly.

Peering carefully into his celebrated

Lantern he rang up Johnny Rockefeller

And ordered a pint of kerosene.

THOSE DARING GOOD FELLOWS.

The directors turned a pale yellow

When they found they'd been robbed

By the teller.

Said one, "Well, I knew

That was what Jim would do,

He was such a jolly good fellow!"

Jim: "I see some of those Jan pay-

masters have, grafted nearly \$300,000

In the last year."

Wm.: "Yes. Wonderful, isn't it?"

Jim: "What?"

Wm.: "The quickness with which those

chaps catch on to American civilization."

"No," said the smiling little fancee,

"I am glad to say that Tom's father

Never had to work for his living."

My dear! How on earth did he make

Such a pile of money?"

"Why, for a few months, he was an

officer in one of the big life insurance

companies."

"That hat," said the old gentleman,

fondly laying his battered lid upon the

ash-heap, "is the last straw that broke

the summer's back."

When asked what he thought of

Korea,

Miss Roosevelt replied: "Oh, it's dear!

But I hope that the Porte

Won't drop in to court."

For Korean courtin'g's so queer." H. S. H.

How Zangwill Unloaded.

While he was yet a teacher in the

Jews' Free School, Spitalfields, Israel

Zangwill, the now famous author and

playwright, composed some verses and

timidly sent them to the editor of an

American magazine. They were promptly

returned. Some years later, when fame

had come his way the same editor

wrote for a poem. Mr. Zangwill dis-

patched the rejected verses, which were

paid for at a high rate and "boom!"

as the work of a celebrated author.—In-

dianapolis News.

Possibly An Indian Poet.

Some farmers are delaying wheat sow-

ing on account of an unusually large

number of grasshoppers. A new kind

of insect which resembles a grasshopper,

but which the farmers are unable to

classify, has appeared in the fields.—In-

dianapolis News.

Fair Price for a Kiss.

A St. Louis man was fined \$300 yes-

terday for kissing Matilda Dunford, of

that city. The judge probably doesn't

know that the fair has closed.—New York

Mail.

Cynical Shots.

Truth is stranger than fiction, because

there is less of it.

Misery loves company,